CLAMS

1. A process for temperature monitoring in a refrigerator, with the following steps:

   a) forming a unit (10) from a temperature-sensitive element (13) and a thermal buffer liquid (12);
   b) placing the unit (10) at a site in a refrigerator (1) to be monitored;
   c) controlling the temperature detected by the temperature-sensitive element (13) by observing a temperature-dependent variable property of the element (13).

2. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the quantity of buffer mass (12) is selected such that temperature equalisation between the unit (10) and its environment requires at least one hour.

3. The process as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the buffer liquid (12) is water (12).

4. The process as claimed in any one of the foregoing claims, characterised in that a temperature-sensitive element (13) working without external energy supply is used.

5. A unit for temperature monitoring in a refrigerator, with a container (11) for a thermal buffer liquid (12) and with a temperature-sensitive element (13) in thermal contact with the buffer liquid (12).

6. The unit as claimed in Claim 5, characterised in that the container (11) has a capacity for the buffer liquid (12) in the range of 50 to 250 cm^3.

7. The unit as claimed in Claim 5 or 6, characterised in that the temperature-sensitive element (13) can swim in the buffer liquid.

8. The unit as claimed in any one of Claims 5 to 7, characterised in that the temperature-sensitive element (13) has different discrete values of a property above or respectively below a limit temperature to be monitored.

9. The unit as claimed in Claim 8, characterised in that the property is the colour of at least a part (14) of the temperature-sensitive element (13).

10. The unit as claimed in Claim 8 or 9, characterised in that the property changes its value in a temperature range between +7 and +10°C.

11. A temperature-sensitive element (13) for a unit as claimed in any one of Claims 5 to 11, which can swim in water (12) and has a property, which takes on different discrete values of a property above or respectively below a limit temperature to be monitored.

12. The temperature-sensitive element as claimed in Claim 11, characterised in that it has the form of a fish.